

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood out among the international community as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest cultural, economic and security partners. It is in this spirit that a program was launched 10 years ago to further foster those close ties. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States approximately 100 of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of Federal agencies and congressional offices.

During my first term in Congress, I was privileged to welcome Anthony "A.J." Bremmer to my office. Anthony was a welcome addition to my congressional staff and he quickly became an integral part of the team. When the opportunity arose again this winter to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." Jehane Sharah, much like A.J., has quickly become a valued part of our staff. Jehane has demonstrated a maturity and a curiosity beyond her college years. Prior to coming to the United States, Jehane worked for two members of the Australian parliament. This experience has helped her flourish during her short time in Washington. She has attended briefings, assisted constituents, and worked with my staff on a variety of research initiatives. Jehane also has an extensive background in communications, serving as a senior reporter for a newspaper in Canberra. As a result, she has assisted my communications director on a number of important projects. Jehane truly is an exceptional ambassador for the people of Australia.

Many of my colleagues have also been privileged to welcome students like Jehane to their offices. This year, 12 students from all across Australia are serving in offices here in Washington. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. From my experience, it is clear that this program will help foster a new generation of understanding and shared experiences between our two countries. One example of this can be seen in a recent feature piece written by Jehane for the Sunday Canberra Times. The article details her experience at the inauguration of President Obama, an event that united not only the people of our country, but those around the world as well.

We in the United States and Australia owe a debt of gratitude to the program's founder,

Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate Congressional staffer who has worked tirelessly to bring students from Australia to the halls of Washington through his efforts at the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we have a responsibility to our constituents back home and an opportunity to reach out to people across the globe. It is with that in mind that I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from around the world so that they can share in our great democracy. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to travel abroad to learn about other cultures and governments and share their knowledge of our country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Jehane Sharah for her dedication and hard work.

HONORING DIANE GLASSER AND PAMELA BUSHNELL

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Glasser and Pamela Bushnell, both of whom were sworn in on November 10, 2008 as new commissioners of the city of Tamarac, Florida. As outstanding public servants and great friends of mine, I wish to recognize their accomplishments and congratulate them on their election as commissioners.

Diane Glasser, who was elected as commissioner of District 3, has been a leader in our community for many years. A resident of Kings Point in Tamarac, Diane has been a member of many important committees and task forces, including the Senior Citizens Involvement Task Force for the Broward County School Board, the Charter Board of Tamarac, the Tamarac Redistricting Committee, and the Broward County Human Rights Board. She was chairwoman of Tamarac's 25th anniversary celebration and has served as a four-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, has been chosen a Democratic National Committeewoman since 1992, and has been First Vice Chair of the Florida Democratic Party since 2001. Her commitment to service and to the issues that matter to our constituency makes her a wonderful choice for commissioner, and I look forward to working with her in the years to come.

Pamela Bushnell, recently elected as commissioner of District 1, has also been a member of many local boards and is an active leader in our community. A resident and current president of Mainlands 1 & 2, Pamela has served on the boards of the City of Margate Committee for the Disabled; the Zoning Board of the town of Sutton, New Hampshire; and

Schenectady County Community College; among many others. A volunteer at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale and a participant in the Broward Sheriff's Office Citizens Observer Patrol Program, Pamela will make a fine addition to Tamarac's government and will serve her district with the utmost distinction.

I look forward to working with Diane, Pamela, Mayor Beth Talabisco, and the rest of the Commission of the City of Tamarac, and wish Diane and Pamela only the best as they begin their service on the City Commission.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL DUNN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Michael Dunn who retired from the Pleasanton Police Department on January 16, 2009 after 25 years of dedicated public service. Michael began his career as a Military Police Officer with the United States Marine Corps, where he served for over eight years. He was a member of the Los Angeles Police Department from 1982 until he was hired by the City of Pleasanton in 1985 and was promoted to the Rank of Sergeant in 1997.

During his career in police service, Michael was recognized on numerous occasions for his tenacity, professionalism and dedication to his work. He was an exemplary police officer and consistently gave more to the community than was asked of him. For example, he was instrumental in introducing a variety of programs to the community, including bicycle rodeos and a minor offense court to provide rehabilitation alternatives for juvenile offenders.

Michael worked a variety of assignments during his career, including Field Training Officer, DARE Officer, SWAT Officer, Traffic Motor Officer, Juvenile Detective, Rangemaster, Patrol Field Supervisor and Traffic Division Supervisor.

During his career, Michael experienced all that law enforcement offers, including capturing kidnapping and homicide suspects within hours of the crime, handling high profile child molestation investigations, assisting in controlling large scale public demonstrations, providing critical assistance during the Oakland Hills Firestorm, and saving the life of a young girl at a local restaurant. Michael always put the community and people first.

He possesses the critical qualities of an exemplary police officer and has been a positive influence to his colleagues in law enforcement. I commend Michael Dunn for his legacy of leadership and attention to detail, while always caring for those with whom he worked as well as the community at large.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, on Monday, January 26, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 30 and 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on those rollcall votes.

Thank you.

HARDROCK MINING AND
RECLAMATION ACT OF 2009**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, last Friday, January 23, marks the passing of 137 years predecessors in the U.S. House of Representatives began to debate a bill to promote the development of mineral resources in the United States. One described the legislation as "an experiment."

On that day in January 1872, Representative Sargent from the State of California noted prior fierce debate in the House over a core element of the proposed mining law—that the Federal Government would be selling off the mineral rights of the United States rather than holding onto Federal ownership and imposing a royalty on future production. Representative Maynard from the State of Tennessee questioned whether the law might encourage speculation.

During an April 1872 debate in the U.S. Senate, Senator Cole from the State of California cautioned that the proposed mining law would allow a person to acquire large tracts of land "which might be worth thousands of dollars per acre, perhaps millions . . ." Senator Alcorn from the State of Mississippi acknowledged that he had never seen a gold mine in his life, while Senator Casserly, also from the State of California, warned of men who could not imagine the mineral deposits that "lie to a fabulous extent in value between the Mississippi River and the Sierra Nevada."

Ultimately, however, our predecessors believed the bill would "meet with universal favor" and would prevent litigation among mining claimants. They liked the idea that the bill might, as Representative Sargent hoped, "bring large amounts of money into the Treasury of the United States, causing the miners to settle themselves permanently, and improve and establish homes, to go deeper in the earth, to dig further into the Hills . . . and build up their communities and States."

And so, on May 10, 1872, Congress passed a law that encouraged people to go West, locate hardrock minerals and stake mining claims on Federal lands, and remove treasure troves of gold, silver, copper, and platinum from the public domain—for free.

The General Mining Law of 1872, or the "experiment," as some of our predecessors named it, has endured for more than one and a third centuries—a total of 137 years.

Today, we can resoundingly assert that the experiment has lasted long enough.

Consider some of the impacts of the 1872 Mining Law:

According to the Congressional Budget Office, it allows the hardrock mining industry to remove \$1 billion in precious metals every year from America's public lands, with no royalty payment or production fee to the Federal Government. By comparison, the coal, gas, and oil industries pay royalties of 8 percent to 18.75 percent.

According to the Department of the Interior, it has allowed mining claimants to buy American public's lands for \$2.50–\$5 an acre—lands that could easily be worth thousands or tens of thousands of dollars an acre today. Between 1994 and 2006, the U.S. government was forced to sell off more than 27,000 acres of public land holding valuable minerals for a pittance: \$112,000.

Finally, as detailed in several Government Accountability Office reports, there have been instances where American taxpayers have paid a fortune to buy back the very lands we once gave away. From Central Idaho's Thunder Mountain, to Telluride, CO, to land outside Yellowstone National Park, millions of public and private dollars have been spent to reacquire thousands of acres of mining claims to protect public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.

Given our current economic crisis and the empty state of our national Treasury, it is ludicrous to be allowing this outmoded law to continue to exempt these lucrative mining activities from paying a fair return to the American people.

Beyond that, the 1872 Mining Law has allowed unscrupulous owners of hardrock mines to abandon hundreds of thousands of mines—and to require American taxpayers to foot the bill because there is no "polluter-pays" funding source, that is, a dedicated source of cleanup funding.

In 2007, the U.S. Forest Service estimated that, with its current annual abandoned mine cleanup budget of \$15 million, it would take 370 years to complete its \$5.5 billion in abandoned mine cleanup and safety mitigation work. In 2008, the inspector general of the Department of the Interior concluded that the public's health and safety is jeopardized by the unaddressed hazards posed by abandoned mines on Federal lands, including lands in the national parks. These old mines are not just eyesores, they are killers.

Today, I, along with Representatives MILLER, WAXMAN, MARKEY, BERMAN, GRIJALVA, HOLT, COSTA, CHRISTENSEN, STARK, KILDEE, HINCHEY, ESHOO, BLUMENAUER, KENNEDY, KIND, CAPPS, SCHIFF, HONDA, SALAZAR, TSONGAS, and CONNOLLY, introduce the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009. This legislation would end the financial and environmental abuses permitted by the 1872 Mining Law—archaic provisions that fly in the face of logic, and are not what taxpayers, sportsmen, conservationists, and western communities want or need.

This is the same bill that the House of Representatives passed by a bipartisan vote of 244–166 in 2007. It contains the same critical requirements, including:

An 8 percent royalty on production from future hardrock mines on public lands, and a 4 percent royalty from current mines.

A permanent end to the sell-off of public lands holding mineral resources.

The establishment of a clean-up fund for abandoned hardrock mine sites, prioritizing the riskiest ones.

Stronger review requirements, specifically for mines proposed near national parks, to help protect nationally significant areas such as Grand Canyon National Park, where miners had filed more than 1,100 claims within five miles of the park as of October 2008.

A threshold environmental standard for mining. This standard would not preclude mining, but it would make it possible to protect public lands if a mining proposal would irrevocably destroy other equally valuable resources.

Every year, the mining industry's fear of losing the sweet deal they currently enjoy on U.S. public lands leads, predictably, to baseless arguments that reform will cause a large scale departure of mining from American soil.

But we know there are many reasons companies will still want to mine for hardrock minerals in the United States. In an annual survey of metal mining and exploration companies published by the independent, Canadian-based Fraser Institute in 2008, Nevada ranked second out of 68 jurisdictions worldwide for overall policy attractiveness. Utah and Wyoming also made the top 10, and Arizona the top 20. The survey highlighted why the U.S. has appeal. Relative to many other countries the U.S. offers good enforcement, good infrastructure, a stable political system, minimal risk of terrorism or guerrilla groups ruining a mining investment—and a predictable regulatory system. Imposition of a Federal royalty—or fee—on production—will not change those powerful advantages.

We also know that the mining industry is clinging to an outdated boondoggle. Nearly every country in the world imposes a royalty—except the United States.

Industry might also trot out the argument that this bill undermines our Nation's secure access to the minerals we use in everyday products. Yet, import reliance alone is not a problem, as the National Research Council of the National Academies asserted in a recent study of critical minerals. Some minerals we have always imported in significant quantities, simply because the ones we need do not exist in mineable quantities here.

Furthermore, a 2008 Congressional Research Service report concluded that Mining Law reform legislation would not likely have much impact on domestic mining capacity or the import reliance of minerals like copper, uranium, platinum, and molybdenum, in large part because the vast majority of mining on federal lands is for gold—about 88 percent.

Today, our goals for mining policy are no longer what they were in 1872, when Representative Sargent hoped the mining law would encourage miners to "dig deeper into the earth" and "further into the Hills." We can aspire to a law that does not merely promote mining, but one that also protects the other values of the hills themselves: clean water, wildlife, recreation, open space, and tourism. We should aim for a law that encourages mining but also encourages responsible corporate citizenship. And, a law that brings a fair return to the taxpayer. That would be a Mining Law worthy of the 21st—rather than the 19th—century.

REWARDING YOUTH MENTORSHIP
IN THE NEW YEAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend anyone who dedicates his or her time to mentoring this country's impressionable youth—in any capacity, in all capacities. There is no greater gift than the selfless giving of one's time and energies to the emotional, scholastic, and moral development of another. We can all trace back in our histories that one person or group of people who set us on the straight and narrow, from whom we drew inspiration, motivation, and a sense of purpose.

For far too long, wayward youth have had few role models to emulate, few adults to guide them in an otherwise confusing, self-deprecating, and turbulent moment in their lives. For far too long, the corrosive influence of drugs, domestic abuse, academic failure, and delinquency have instilled in our youth a hopelessness that permeates far into their adolescence and even adulthood. These honorable many, who have taken the charge of leading these youngsters to the road of successes, deserve our praise and our respect, and I am thrilled to support naming this month of January "National Mentoring Month" in an attempt to do just that.

Three million youngsters are currently benefitting from a mentoring relationship, but that just isn't enough. Five times as many kids are in urgent need of guidance, and it is up to us to demonstrably reward mentors for their vows of time, commitment, and effort. A mentorship is not a task taken up lightly or without the resolve to work diligently, generously, and openly—but it provides its participants such innumerable, intrinsic rewards that it becomes a challenge, and pleasure, certainly worthy of fulfilling.

May mentors across this great Nation feel proud of the work they are doing, and may others take note of their tremendous example and develop a mentoring relationship of their own.

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times, my hometown newspaper, began its 125th year of publishing this month.

Starting from humble beginnings in the back of a Dunedin, Florida drugstore, 3 people—a doctor, dentist and printer—turned out 480 copies of the newspaper's first edition. Today, The Times is Florida's most read newspaper.

Following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues, a column by Paul Tash, the Editor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The St. Petersburg Times, commemorating the newspaper's growth and plans to celebrate its history over the next year.

Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times has dutifully recorded the history of our com-

munity these past 125 years, and as Paul Tash writes, "sharing in the success, suffering in the setbacks." Please join me in thanking all those past and present employees of The Times who have brought the news to our doorstep, in good times and bad, and even during the most trying of times.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 14, 2009]

OUR COMMON HISTORY: TAMPA BAY AND ITS
TIMES

(By Paul Tash, Editor, Chairman, CEO)

This year the St. Petersburg Times turns 125 years old. To mark the occasion, we are starting a weekly feature of local history, drawn from the newspaper's own pages. In their origins, neither the newspaper nor its community amounted to much.

The Times started out as a weekly in July of 1884. In the back room of a drugstore in Dunedin, three men—a doctor, a dentist and a printer—teamed up to produce the first edition. The total circulation was 480 copies. As my colleague Rob Hooker once wrote, "Their paper was like the community—small, humble and faced with an uncertain future."

Over the years, however, the frontier villages scattered around Tampa Bay grew together into a vibrant, dynamic metropolitan region, and the Times grew with it.

Today it is Florida's favorite newspaper, with the largest circulation in the state. Nelson Poynter, a generous and far-sighted owner, protected its independence, and three decades after he died, the Times remains rooted in this community, not part of a chain or conglomerate.

There have been rough patches along the way. Back in the 1930s—the last time a real estate boom collapsed into depression—St. Petersburg city government defaulted on millions of dollars in bond payments, and the public schools started charging tuition. On the outskirts of town, a sign went up warning visitors, "Do Not Come Here Seeking Work."

Those hard times also hit the Times. Advertising dropped by two-thirds. Since they had no cash, merchants paid their bills with vouchers, which the newspaper parceled out to employees as pay. At one point, the news staff dropped to 15 people, and the paper itself dwindled to eight pages.

But over the long term, the trend lines have kept climbing. Compare just two scenes.

During the World Series in 1924, a crowd gathered outside the Times' offices while an editor with a megaphone called out the play-by-play, coming by telegraph into the newsroom. Eighty-four years later and just a few blocks away, 40,000 fans gathered to watch the town's own team playing in the World Series.

For a century and a quarter, the St. Petersburg Times has recorded the unfolding story of our region, sharing in its success, suffering in the setbacks. Now we celebrate our common history by offering these slices of it. And even in this difficult stretch, we are betting that Tampa Bay's best days lie ahead. That is one of history's lessons.

IN HONOR OF GERTRUDE PINTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz, upon the recent celebration of her 100th birthday.

Gertrude Pintz was born on December 29th, 1908 in Austria-Hungary. She has been blessed over her lifetime with strength, joy, her family and friends. She is known for seeing only the good in others and beauty in life. Mrs. Pintz lives every day with a grateful heart, warm smile and positive outlook.

Mrs. Pintz married the love of her life, Sebastian, and together they raised 3 sons—Sebastian, Adam and the late Henry. She remains close with her sons, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. As the matriarch of her family, Mrs. Pintz hosted the family's annual Thanksgiving dinner at her Cleveland home, continuing this tradition until the age of 88. In her early seventies, following the passing of her beloved husband, Mrs. Pintz embarked on pursuing her artistic talents. She enrolled in a four year art school, where she studied oil painting. To this day, her artwork adorns the homes of numerous family members and friends.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz upon the joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. Her love of family, love of life and youthful soul all serve as an inspirational example for all of us to follow. I wish Mrs. Pintz an abundance of peace, health and happiness today, and throughout the years to come.

JIM RICE'S ELECTION TO THE
BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Rice of Andover, MA for his election into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Regarded as one of the most dominant hitters to have played the game, Rice was a 1978 American League Most Valuable Player and an eight-time All Star. With a .298 career batting average, Rice hit 382 home runs and 1,451 RBIs during his 16 years in Major League Baseball. Having spent his entire career in Boston, Rice becomes the fourth Hall of Fame player to have spent his entire career with the Red Sox.

Rice has also been an active member of his community, contributing his time and effort to several charitable organizations in Massachusetts. In 1979 he was named an honorary chairman of the Jimmy Fund, which supports cancer research and care at the Dana-Farber Institute in Boston. He was also recognized by the Jimmy Fund in 1992 with the Jimmy Award, which honors individuals who have shown "exceptional devotion" to cancer research. Some of his other charitable activities include working with the Neurofibromatosis Foundation of New England and raising money for toy drives for local homeless children.

Since retiring in 1989, Rice has continued his commitment to the Red Sox, working as a hitting coach and instructor. Rice also serves as a popular studio analyst on the Red Sox pre- and post-game shows for NESN.

Rice and his wife, Corine, have lived in Andover since 1975 with their two children, Carissa and Chancey.

I congratulate him for his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame and for his notable achievements throughout his career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, rollcall vote No. 30 was a suspension vote on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 31—A resolution expressing support for designation of January 28, 2009, as “National Data Privacy Day.” If present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 30—“yea.”

Rollcall vote no. 31 was a suspension vote on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 84—A resolution honoring the heroic actions of the pilot, crew, and rescuers of US Airways Flight 1549. If present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 31—“yea.”

THE CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-SLAVERY CHAMPION OF 2008

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remarks made by Dorchen Leidholdt, Director of Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families, regarding my selection as the Congressional Anti-Slavery Champion of 2008:

On behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, an international NGO fighting human trafficking since 1988, and Sanctuary for Families, a New York City-based provider of services to victims of domestic violence, I am delighted to join other leaders of the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition in saluting Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, the Congressional Anti-Slavery Champion of 2008. Congresswoman Maloney's enduring and dedicated advocacy on behalf of victims of human trafficking is unparalleled in the halls of Congress. Over and over she has demonstrated her profound understanding of the harm of human trafficking, gleaned primarily from her compassion, respectful attention to the testimony of survivors, and her acute awareness of what it takes to stop this horrific crime and severe human rights violation.

Thanks to Congresswoman Maloney's visionary leadership, it is widely recognized that stopping trafficking requires both strong measures to curtail the demand for prostitution and well-crafted criminal provisions that enable prosecutors to put traffickers out of business—permanently.

Ken Franzblau has focused on the critically important role Congresswoman Maloney has played in the drafting and passage of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which enhances protections to victims while strengthening the ability of prosecutors to hold traffickers accountable. Thanks to Congresswoman Maloney's inspiring leadership, the 2008 Reauthorization continues the important advances made by the previous two Reauthorizations.

While we celebrate the achievements of the 2008 Reauthorization, our task of strengthening our federal anti-trafficking law is not over; critically important work remains to be done in two important areas. Through her exemplary work in the House of Representatives, in the draft that she shepherded there

to close to unanimous approval, Congresswoman Maloney, has pointed the way to two critically important goals that lie ahead. First, the obstacles of proving force, fraud, or coercion, while eased under specific circumstances by the 2008 Reauthorization, continue to stymie the effective prosecution of many sex traffickers. Going forward we must ensure that sex traffickers are never provided a loophole, because their trafficking was not provably ‘severe.’

Second, sex tour operators fuel the demand for sex trafficking worldwide by sending plane loads of affluent American men to the poorest countries in the world to buy the bodies of women and girls in prostitution. While Congresswoman Maloney succeeded in including such a provision in New York State's landmark anti-trafficking law (the strongest state anti-trafficking law in the nation), and saw to it that the House draft reauthorization contained it, the compromise that resulted in the 2008 Reauthorization does not include a provision criminalizing sex tour operators.

We must ensure that the next TVPA Reauthorization criminalizes sex trafficking *per se* and makes it a federal crime to operate a sex tour business. With Congresswoman Maloney leading the campaign, I am confident that we will accomplish these two remaining goals.

Congresswoman Maloney, on behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Sanctuary for Families, our congratulations on receiving this well-deserved recognition and our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable leadership in the battle to end human trafficking.

IN MEMORY OF ROGER BONE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and achievements of Roger Bone, a former North Carolina legislator and a good friend to me and to all of Nash County. He died on January 25, 2009, after battling cancer for many months. He will be sorely missed.

Roger and I shared parallel lives in many ways. He grew up on a tobacco farm, like I did, and like me was first elected to the state legislature in 1978. It was a pleasure to have him as a friend and partner in my early legislative career.

He quickly rose through the General Assembly to become chairman of the House Banks and Thrift Institutions Committee, where he served with distinction until 1981. In 1987, he started his own lobbying business, Bone and Associates, which has been among the most influential firms in North Carolina. Last year, the N.C. Center for Public Policy recognized him as the number one lobbyist in the state, and he was also one of the most well-liked. People knew they could trust Roger, and his influence was a credit to his honesty, hard work, and easy humor.

Last June, Roger received the Order of the Long Lead Pine, the highest honor our state gives to our native sons and daughters. I can think of no one who is more deserving of North Carolina's respect and admiration.

Roger's family shared his love of Nash County and commitment to public service with his family. His lovely wife Reba was an ele-

mentary and middle school principal, and his son, Fred, was his partner in Bone and Associates. In addition to his wife and son, he is survived by two grandsons, Jacob and Caleb; his father, Winslow; and two brothers and a sister.

It was my honor to be asked to offer the following eulogy at the funeral of this great man.

It is an honor to take part in this memorial service for my good friend Roger. I wish I could be there today with you to honor and remember Roger. However, today in the House of Representatives we are taking a critical vote to help our economy recover from its current downturn, and I will be thinking of Roger as I take today's votes. I will be thinking of his love of politics and legislation, and his many years in the arena, and I know he would understand, and Reba and his family understand, but I still wish I could be with you.

There is not a person here who doesn't know how Roger Bone loved Nash County and loved serving his community in the legislature. He was not only a student of politics, but he was a practitioner all his life. I remember that when he gave Reba her engagement ring, they didn't celebrate with dinner, they went to watch the General Assembly, so you know that politics was really in his bones.

As most of you know, he was ranked the top lobbyist in North Carolina last year, and he was so successful because he truly cared about people. In his work, he made friends, not enemies; knowing that those who were not with him today could be his partner tomorrow. Roger was a good friend to me, as he was to many of you. He could be calm in the midst of a storm. No matter what—the commotion of business, the furor of political debate—he was always steady, always smiling, always a reliable partner and friend.

I count it a distinct blessing that we were freshman members of the General Assembly together and I will never forget that year. In 1979, we were part of a group of ‘Liston's Boys’: Roger, myself, Martin Lancaster, Paul Pulley, and others. As roommates at the Brownstone Hotel, Roger and I spent many late hours talking about our new roles and the politics of the House. My fondest memories were the early mornings. Even though we both grew up on a farm, Roger never appreciated my getting up early in the morning to go running. As I was heading out, my stirring would wake up Roger while he was still trying to finish his sleep. Then, I would wake him up again when I got back.

However, the work ethic he gained from farm life served him well in the General Assembly and in the rest of his life. His positive attitude contributed to his success in everything he did. Everyone who knew him liked him, and everyone who worked with him liked him as well. It says a lot about him that he could always laugh at himself, and in the toughest of times if you can laugh you'll be alright.

While this is a sad day for all of us, it would be wise of us to remember the words of the great artist, Leonardo da Vinci, who said on the death of a friend, “As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings a happy death.” Roger used his life well, and Nash County, and the State of North Carolina are better due to his efforts. I am better because I knew him, as are we all. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this remembrance.

DANTE "GLUEFINGERS" LAVELLI

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, when you were a Cleveland Browns fan, there is no halfway. To be a Browns fan requires a life-long devotion, an unflinching loyalty, a reverence for all those who came before. As a Browns fan, you come to accept that your loyalty will be tested often, and in ways you cannot fathom—the Drive, the Fumble, the stealth, dark-of-night move to Baltimore. Yet, the loyalty never wavers—mostly because the rewards and the memories forged on Sunday afternoons between fathers, sons, friends and neighbors are so powerful—even when they are few and far between.

One of pillars of the Browns recently passed: Dante "Glue Fingers" Lavelli. He played with Otto Graham, Marion Motley and Lou "The Toe" Groza and was coached by the legendary Paul Brown. He led the team to seven championships in the 1940s and 1950s. He was a gridiron star in his hometown of Hudson, OH, which is part of my district. He led his high school team to three straight undefeated seasons.

Dante Lavelli was a World War II Army veteran who missed most of college to defend our Nation, trading the Horseshoe at Ohio State for the beaches of Normandy. The famed receiver—nicknamed "Gluefingers" because he never dropped the ball—was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton more than 30 years ago, where his 386 catches for 6,488 yards and 62 touchdowns are part of football lore. He loved one woman for more than 60 years, his beloved wife, Joy. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren, including Aaron Bill, who worked for me in Washington and now attends law school.

I want to submit into the RECORD a column written by renowned Cleveland Plain Dealer sportswriter Terry Pluto, who so eloquently captured the magic of a man who meant so much to his family, his community, the Browns and the NFL. The article was published on January 25, 2009, the day after Lavelli's funeral in Hudson, OH.

He was a man who put salt on almost everything, especially a salad. He drank a huge can of ice tea each night and would drive his grandchildren around, forcing them to listen to polka music in the car.

Dante Lavelli was so much more than a Hall of Fame receiver for the Cleveland Browns, as family and friends made clear during his funeral at St. Mary's Church in Hudson on Saturday.

Aaron Bill walked up to the pulpit with a comb as he prepared to talk about his grandfather, who died Tuesday at the age of 85.

"He was always trying to comb my hair," said Bill. "He'd tell me that my sideburns were too long, that I needed a haircut. He wanted me to pull up my pants even when they were as high as they could go."

Yes, he's Dante Lavelli, "Gluefingers." He was Dante Lavelli, Mr. "Clutch." He was Dante Lavelli, the receiver's receiver, a player whose football personality was opposite to so many of the self-absorbed types who play the position today.

He's the man "who never dropped a pass that he touched, not in practices or games." So said great Browns coach Paul Brown at

Lavelli's Hall of Fame induction in 1975. He also never did a celebration dance in the end zone, because he had been there before—a total of 62 times in his 11-year Browns career.

Lavelli caught all but 20 of his 386 receptions from Hall of Famer Otto Graham. He also played games in 1956, his final season, with a notebook and pencil tucked inside his pads so he could sign up opponents after the game to join the new Players Association that he helped assemble.

"When my father walked, the floor shook," said his son, Edward Lavelli.

Or so it seemed.

He led Hudson High to three undefeated seasons in the late 1930s.

He played only three games at Ohio State before joining the Army, where he was in the 28th Infantry.

The flag on his casket was a reminder that Lavelli was part of the group of men who landed at Omaha Beach. He was in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944-45, where the Allies lost an estimated 81,000 men.

In an interview with Scout.com, Lavelli said at one point in the fighting, "I spent three days in a foxhole." He also said he prayed the "Our Father" constantly for three days.

After his football career, Lavelli had ownership interest in a furniture store, in two bowling alleys and other business ventures. He had been the oldest living member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He pushed for recognition of the 1948 Browns for their undefeated season, which had been dismissed by the NFL because it happened in the old All-American Football Conference.

As Father John Betters said in his homily, "Dante Lavelli truly was one of America's Greatest Generation."

Lavelli was married for nearly 60 years to Joy, and spent much of his later life in Westlake. His family members mentioned how he loved to win at anything, from gin rummy to golf to negotiating to buy a car.

Oldest daughter Lucinda said her father often offered this advice: "Save your money and get some rest."

Or as grandson Aaron Bill said, looking up and speaking to his deceased grandfather, "I love you very much, and I'll miss talking to you every day. And don't worry, my shoes aren't untied. I wore loafers."

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT CARLO M. ROBINSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero. On January 17, 2009, our Nation and our state lost a brave soldier when Army Staff Sergeant Carlo Montel Robinson died in Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He died of wounds sustained in Kabul, Afghanistan, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Staff Sergeant Robinson grew up in Hope, Arkansas—a tight-knit community where I had the privilege of growing up as well. Although I never had the honor to meet Staff Sergeant Robinson, on behalf of the community of Hope, I extend my utmost condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

Staff Sergeant Robinson was assigned to the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at

Fort Polk, La., and carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation. Staff Sergeant Robinson spent the last thirteen years in the U.S. Army where he served with distinction and dedication, epitomizing a true patriot.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his daughters, Carneshia and Destiny, son, Da'karia, mother, Jennifer, grandmother, Martha, and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Staff Sergeant Carlo Robinson and his legacy, and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZENS
INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGNS
(CIVIC) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, Representative PAUL KANJORSKI and I are introducing bipartisan legislation to establish a program of limited tax credits and tax deductions to get average Americans more involved in the political process. This bill, the Citizens Involvement in Campaigns (CIVIC) Act, will broaden the base of political contributors and limit the influence of big money donors in federal elections.

We need to take a fresh look at innovative approaches to campaign finance reform, with special attention paid to ideas that encourage, and not restrict, greater participation in our campaigns. Toward this end, I have been advocating tax credits and deductions for small political contributions for many years. An updated tax credit system would be a simple and effective means of balancing the influence of big money donors and bringing individual contributors back to our campaigns. The impact of this counterweight will reduce the burden of raising money, as well as the appearance of impropriety that accompanies the money chase.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning lead many candidates to focus most of their efforts on collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from the political process.

The concept of empowering small donors is not a new idea. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This provided an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Currently, six geographically and politically diverse states (Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, and Arizona) offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits vary in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to become more involved.

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are today.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can offer an invitation for citizens to play a larger role in political campaigns. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF GARY PENROD

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected public servants in my district, San Bernardino County Sheriff Gary Penrod, who is stepping down this month after nearly 40 years protecting our citizens.

A Southern California native, Gary Stephen Penrod graduated from Redlands Schools, worked as a U.S. Forest Service firefighter and is a U.S. Army veteran. But his life has been in law enforcement, and he has served in the sheriff's department since being deputized in 1971.

Sheriff Penrod spent time on patrol in most of the vast desert and mountain reaches of San Bernardino County, and received regular promotions over the years. When the city of Hesperia incorporated in 1988, the sheriff's department contracted to provide police services, and Gary Penrod became the first Hesperia Police Chief.

By the time our former sheriff retired in 1994, Gary Penrod had been promoted to Deputy Chief. He easily defeated six other candidates and was sworn in as sheriff on Jan. 3, 1995. He has been reelected to three more four-year terms.

When he first took office in 1994, San Bernardino County had a population of 774,000 people. Today, more than 2 million people live in the sheriff's jurisdiction. Deputies responded to 617,000 calls in 1994, last year they had more than 1.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, San Bernardino County was known in the past for having some colorful

characters as our top law enforcer. Sheriff Penrod has had a reputation for quiet leadership, for helping the department achieve high recognition for professionalism, and for encouraging his deputies to stay on the cutting edge as law enforcement has modernized.

During his tenure, Sheriff Penrod implemented community based policing and many innovative programs and staffing enhancements including: Crime Free Multi-Housing, Operation CleanSWEEP, Public Safety Internship Academy, Marijuana Eradication Team, Methamphetamine Lab Task Force, Narcotics Special Enforcement Teams and Gang Enforcement Units. Sheriff Penrod oversaw the merger with the San Bernardino Marshall's office and in 2005 he became Sheriff-Coroner of San Bernardino County.

A highly respected leader, Sheriff Penrod is a member of San Bernardino County Children's Network, San Bernardino County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association, California Police Officers' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, Western State Sheriffs' Association, California State Coroners' Association, and the Governor's Corrections Standard Authority. He is a past president of the California State Sheriffs' Association.

Although he is respected for his professionalism and progressive thinking, among his deputies Sheriff Penrod is most known as someone who always cares for the members of his department. Wounded deputies have often told of finding the sheriff by their bedside, personally promising to help them and their families.

Madam Speaker, after 38 years as a law enforcement officer, Sheriff Penrod has decided to retire to spend more time with his wife Nancy and at his hobbies—horseback riding, raising cattle, fishing, camping and snow skiing. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service, and wishing him and Nancy success in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF STEELTON-HIGHSPIRE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE PIAA SINGLE A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2008–2009 Steelton-Highspire Steamrollers, from Steelton, PA in my congressional district. They completed an undefeated season with a victory over Clairton High School to become PIAA Single A State football champions.

The Steamrollers certainly had a season to remember setting school records in wins, points, and games played. They established the longest winning streak in school history with 25 wins dating back to last year. The Rollers capped off the season by winning their fourth straight District 3 title and their second consecutive PIAA State Single A Championship.

The Rollers were led by a group of seniors who will go down in Steelton-Highspire history as the most successful class in the great history of Steamroller football. In 4 years this

group compiled a record of 51 wins and 9 losses winning the district title all 4 years and two state championships. The offense was led by senior tailback Jeremiah Young, who ran for 2,812 yards and 30 touchdowns on 283 carries. Mr. Young broke the State's all-time career rushing record and stands seventh all time in the Nation with 9,027 yards.

I congratulate Steelton-Highspire High School and Coach Rob Deibler on a season to remember.

HONORING THOMAS G. LANDAAL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Thomas G. Landaal. Sadly, Mr. Landaal passed away on December 5, 2007, at the age of 53, and the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation will posthumously induct Tom Landaal into their Circle of Distinguished Leaders on March 31st in Washington, DC at the joint meetings of the Fibre Box Association and the Association of Corrugated Converters. Mr. Landaal will be the ninth person to be inducted into this circle.

Born in Hinsdale, IL, Tom, as he was known to his friends, relocated to Flint, MI as a child. After graduating from Powers Catholic High School he obtained two degrees from Ferris State University, an AS degree in Building Construction and a BS degree in Business Administration. In 1979 he assumed a managerial role in the family business, Landaal Packaging Systems. As president of Landaal Packaging Systems he went on to become a leader in the packaging industry. He was affiliated with the International Corrugated Case Association in Paris, the Federation Europeenne des Fabricants de Carton Ondule based in Paris, the Sales and Marketing Executives and Technical Association Pulp and Paper Industry, as well as the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation. Tom served on the Board of Directors of the Fibre Box Association and the Independent Corrugated Converters Association. He was chair of the Fibre Box Association's Independent Sheet Plant Committee and served as the Fibre Box Association's representative on the Board of the Independent Corrugated Converters Association for many years.

In addition to his work in packaging industry, Tom Landaal was very active in his community and is sorely missed. He held leadership roles with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Hurley Medical Center, Hurley Foundation, Flint Classroom Support Fund, Hero of Flint, Burton Business Association, Burton Economic Development Corporation, Friends of Sloan Museum, Flint College and Cultural Center, Incorporated, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, Heartland Manor, Information Services of Michigan, Michigan State University, University Affiliated Hospitals of Flint, the Industrial Mutual Association, the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, and Powers Alumni Association. He belonged to several golf and ski groups including the National Ski Patrol.

Madam Speaker, the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation's Circle of Distinguished Leaders was instituted to honor

those persons that have brought vision, creativity, and energy to the promotion and advancement of the packaging industry. Tom Landaal was an advocate for improved technology and safe working conditions. This recognition by his peers is a fitting tribute to his enthusiasm for designing the best system to deliver the best product to his customers and to ensure the packaging industry remained on the cutting edge for fulfilling customer needs. I congratulate the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation for their selection of Thomas Landaal for this honor and hope his example will inspire the next generation to continue his work. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the life and work of my good friend, Thomas Landaal.

YEAR OF THE OX

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to the millions of Asian Americans who are celebrating the Lunar New Year, which ushers in the Year of the Ox. Representing one of the largest Asian American populations in Southern California, I have had the distinct privilege in joining many of my Asian American constituents to commemorate this historic tradition.

The communities of Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Monterey Park have organized events and festivities for families to gather and celebrate the Year of the Ox. I am also delighted that this will be the 110th year that the Annual Golden Dragon Lunar New Year Parade, hosted by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, will be bringing floats, marching bands, and various forms of entertainment to over 100,000 people. From parades to festivals, all will be able to enjoy the colorful, rich traditions that have been observed by many Asian cultures for centuries.

I wish you all the best in the Year of the Ox.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE IMPROVED BURN INJURY TREATMENT ACCESS ACT OF 2009

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Social Security and Medicare Improved Burn Injury Treatment Access Act of 2009. This legislation provides a waiver of the 24-month waiting period now required before an uninsured individual becomes eligible for Medicare coverage for disabling burn injuries, as well as the five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits.

Each year an estimated 500,000 people are treated for burn injuries. Of these 500,000 injuries, about 40,000 require hospitalization. Fire and burn deaths average about 4,000 per year.

Burn care is highly specialized. While there are thousands of trauma centers in the United

States, there are only 125 burn centers with a total burn-bed capacity of just over 1,800. These specialized burn centers treat about 25,000 patients annually, or on average, 200 admissions per year for each center. U.S. hospitals without burn centers treat the remaining patients and average less than three burn admissions per year.

Medical care for serious burn injuries is very expensive, which places a great financial strain on burn centers, about 40 percent of whose patients are uninsured. Because of these financial challenges, burn centers in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Iowa and South Carolina have closed in just the past two years.

This is occurring at a time when the Federal Government is asking burn centers to expand their capacity to deal with mass casualty scenarios. The Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security have included burn centers in the Critical Benchmark Surge Capacity Criteria in the funding continuation requirements for State plans administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HSS, in conjunction with the American Burn Association, has created a real-time, web-based burn bed capacity system in the national emergency preparedness center and funded Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) and clinical, on-site burn nurse training for 200 public health service nurses as a reserve capacity for potential mass burn casualty incidents, as well as supporting more than 20 ABLS courses with over 600 first-responders in 10 key areas of the country.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC, and major accidents like the Rhode Island nightclub fire and North Carolina chemical plant explosions demonstrate the substantial number of burn injuries that can result from such events. Over one-third of those hospitalized in New York on 9/11 had severe burn injuries. The Department of Homeland Security has recognized that there would be mass burn casualties in terrorist acts, and there is a need for appropriate preparedness activities. For example, if the United States should suffer further terrorist attacks using explosions, incendiary devices or chemical weapons, most victims would suffer severe burn injuries.

Even a relatively modest number of burn injuries can consume large segments of the Nation's burn bed capacity. For example, the victims of the Rhode Island nightclub fire absorbed the burn bed capacity of most of the northern East Coast of the United States. Mass burn casualties that reach into the hundreds or thousands would strain the system to the breaking point.

It is clear that burn centers are a national resource and a critical link to public health emergency preparedness. Medicare coverage for serious, disabling burn injuries would enable these burn centers to remain financially viable and preserve an essential component of our public health emergency infrastructure.

This legislation follows an approach already taken with respect to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), both of which result in waivers of the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility. While these 2 diseases tend to be progressive in nature, the very initial phase of a serious burn injury is when things are most acute.

This legislation is similar to H.R. 685, which I introduced in the 110th Congress, except for the inclusion of some important cost containment provisions. No one with either public or private insurance at the time of their burn injury will be eligible for the 24-month waiver. Nor will State public insurance programs be permitted to restrict coverage for burn patients so as to place the burden solely on Medicare. The legislation also requires that the individual's disability status be reevaluated at least once every 3 years to ensure that those patients who have fully recovered from their burn injuries will not be able to stay on Medicare indefinitely.

Providing immediate Medicare coverage for uninsured patients suffering serious, disabling burn injuries is fully justified and a necessary step. Although not all hospitalized burn injuries would qualify as "disabling" and thus result in immediate Medicare coverage, this legislation is about providing coverage for the many uninsured patients suffering from serious burn injuries and ensuring the survival of a vital national resource that already is in jeopardy, a situation we cannot accept as we seek to prepare the nation to deal with potential mass casualty terrorist events.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family I was absent for the following rollcall votes held January 21 and January 22, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated for each roll call listed: rollcall vote 23: "yea"; rollcall vote 24: "nay"; rollcall vote 25: "yea"; rollcall vote 26: "nay"; rollcall vote 27: "yea"; rollcall vote 28: "yea"; rollcall vote 29: "yea."

IN MEMORY OF AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on January 26th, a long-time friend and favorite son of South Carolina, Austin Cunningham, passed away. In his lifetime—that spanned almost an entire century—Mr. Cunningham was a successful businessman, a tireless leader in the community, a prolific philosopher, and a mentor. He was a valued advisor to the late Congressman Floyd Spence and Governor Carol Campbell leading the efforts to reduce capital gains taxes. His steadfast belief in the importance and virtue of service was an inspiration to many, and he left a positive and indelible mark on South Carolina and the Nation.

Staff writer Lee Tant of the Times and Democrat of Orangeburg, South Carolina has thoughtfully developed the following fitting tribute to Mr. Cunningham.

[From the Times and Democrat, Jan. 27, 2009]

AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM DIES AT 94
(By Lee Tant)

It is hard, if not impossible, to describe the life of Orangeburg icon Austin Cunningham. Cunningham, who died Monday at the age of 94, was a community leader, businessman, writer, lawyer, soldier and citizen of the year.

He was the definition of a Renaissance man.

His lifetime spanned 18 presidents, 11 recessions, two world wars and the civil rights movement.

Cunningham was the leader of five companies and in 1998 was named Outstanding Elder Citizen of the Year for South Carolina.

A decade later, he was named the Kiwanis Club of Orangeburg's Citizen of the Year. He also was honored with the Order of the Palmetto.

Cunningham was involved with nearly everything in the Orangeburg community. He was constantly willing to be out front in volunteering and promoting community involvement.

During the 1970s, Cunningham made business trips to Denmark and Manning while an executive at the Sunbeam Outdoor Co. It was then he first became interested in Orangeburg. When the company relocated its executive headquarters to Santee in 1974, Cunningham and his family moved with it.

He said his new home was like an "island" because its residents had to drive at least 50 miles to reach Columbia or Charleston.

The man who once called cities such as Chicago and New York home quickly became involved in the community. He joined what was then the Greater Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce, attended First Presbyterian Church, and was active in the local Republican Party.

He retired from Sunbeam to open a Burger King restaurant on John C. Calhoun Drive in 1975.

Cunningham accepted the chairmanship of the Orangeburg Regional Hospital's major gifts division four years later. His work was instrumental in procuring the funding to build the Regional Medical Center.

Cunningham also became a tireless advocate of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program during the summer of 1983. The program provided a tax credit for employers who hired underprivileged teenagers.

During that time, Cunningham served as chairman of the local Economic Recovery Committee.

To market the program in Orangeburg, Cunningham illustrated how it not only made good financial sense but also helped the community.

"Your reward is two-fold. You'll get a good worker for jobs you want them to do. And when you go to pay your federal businesses taxes next year, you'll get back 85 percent of what you paid out," he said to encourage local employers.

In the spring of 1984, President Ronald Reagan invited Cunningham to the White House to honor his efforts in promoting the program.

Reagan lauded Cunningham and credited him with fostering partnerships with 77 local businesses that gave 264 jobs to teenagers in poverty.

"For most of these 16- and 17-year-olds, it was their first real job. Now that's partnership in action, and everybody is better off because of it," Reagan said.

A July 1983 T&D editorial described Cunningham as "a one-man crusade" that informed the community about the program's merits. It also noted he was dubbed "Mr. TJTC" by the head of the State Employment Security Commission back then.

However, Cunningham didn't want all the attention and refused to take credit for it.

He insisted the real heroes were the businesses that hired the young workers.

He said the success of the program in Orangeburg boded well for industry and race relations here.

"It's made Orangeburg a better community than it was 10 weeks ago," Cunningham said after the program concluded its first summer.

He served on the People's Assault on Drugs Committee in the 1990s.

Cunningham was also behind getting 132 streetlights installed in New Brookland as part of efforts by the People's Assault on Drugs. He said then that drug dealers were relegated to hanging back in the shadows.

"They can't stand out in the streets anymore. They are not aggressively stopping people and vying with each other," he said.

Additionally, Cunningham was a patron of the arts.

After hearing the South Carolina State University Choir, he realized how good it was and, he spearheaded the choir's partnership with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra. This led to an annual concert series in Orangeburg.

S.C. State awarded him its Distinguished Service Award at the 1995 Founder's Day festivities.

When he was named the "Outstanding Older South Carolinian" of the year by the state Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Aging in 1998, Cunningham used the honor to make a push for funding county councils on aging. The annual Elder Hop event on New Year's Day in Orangeburg was his brainchild as a fundraiser for the Meals on Wheels program.

Born in Washington, he lost his journalist father at age 12. Cunningham went to work in the U.S. Supreme Court as a page at age 14 and subsequently worked under J. Edgar Hoover at the FBI. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He lost two brothers in the war.

After earning a law degree from the University of Virginia, he did advanced studies at the University of Chicago and Oxford University.

He married his late wife Jacqueline in 1946. An infant son, Paul, died in 1954.

He is survived by two daughters, Manhattan psychotherapist Kathryn Janus (wife of Jeffrey Janus), magazine journalist Amy Cunningham of Brooklyn (wife of Steven Waldman), son Austin Cunningham III, a business owner residing in Swansea, and two school-aged grandsons Joseph and Gordon Waldman of Brooklyn. His younger sister, Mrs. Clotilde Luce, at age 88, still works at New York City's renowned Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre.

As a longtime author of articles for The Times and Democrat and other publications, Cunningham wrote from his vast repertoire of life experiences. He offered insight on historical figures from George Washington and Abe Lincoln to Bill Clinton. He spent a weekend in a state prison, at his own request, gathering material to provide insight on life behind bars.

Most recently, Cunningham was the subject of a story about his experience as an usher on the podium at Franklin Roosevelt's presidential inauguration in 1933.

Also, he was honored this past week by the Orangeburg County Community of Character initiative. The board of directors voted to create the Austin Cunningham Orangeburg County Community of Character award. It will be given once a year to worthy citizens who exemplify the character traits that make their communities better places to live, work and play.

A memorial service for Cunningham will be held at noon Friday at First Presbyterian

Church in Orangeburg. The family will receive visitors from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Dukes-Harley Funeral Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would have voted "Aye" on both H. Res. 31 expressing support for the designation of a National Data Privacy Awareness Day, and H. Res. 84, honoring the heroic action of the individuals involved with the rescue effort of U.S. Airways Flight 1549.

Our office holds a twice yearly event, the Paying for College Workshop, to provide high school seniors and their parents options for financing a college education. We invite the Sallie Mae Foundation to join us and they have given out dozens of scholarships over the years. Last night we had over 200 people attend the Workshop at Milby High School in our district, and Sallie Mae provided a \$500 scholarship. We had to schedule the event before the 2009 voting schedule was finalized and for that reason I was not able to be in Washington for the two votes last night.

I would have supported both resolutions that were voted on last night, and was a cosponsor of H. Res. 31. People are increasingly using electronic communications in all walks of life—from social networking to e-commerce, more and more personal information is being compiled by online sites. While we have realized incredible efficiencies and other benefits from new electronic technologies, those technologies have also raised significant challenges for protecting the privacy of personal and proprietary information. H. Res. 31 would designate January 28 as National Data Privacy Day to raise awareness and educate people on safe practices when submitting personal information online.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE SHAIN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, there are all kinds of public servants in our communities, but we seldom think first of journalists in that category. In the Eighth Congressional District of Southern Missouri, a journalist springs to mind as a public servant: Mike Shain of KFVS in Cape Girardeau. Mr. Shain is retiring after 53 years in the news businesses (the last 37 at KFVS), and I want to commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives for his long labors in the service of our region, our State and our Nation.

Though the craft of news reporting has changed greatly in the time Mr. Shain has spent in the business, his fair reporting, his work ethic, and his professionalism have remained constant. Everyone who has looked at Mr. Shain over a microphone or across a table on the set of his weekly news magazine knows they have better done their homework. Mr. Shain takes preparedness to another

level—he knows his subject matter and his audience inside-out.

Whole generations in Southeast Missouri have grown up with the informed voice of Mr. Shain in their ears. He has not only conveyed to us the news of the day, but he has also placed that news in context for his viewership. He has told us what is important as well as why. He has always had something important to say, which is a tough thing to do when most of your sentences end in a question mark. Still, Mr. Shain has been so successful and is so respected because his intellect is only surpassed by his understanding of the news media and its responsibilities to the public.

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Even though regular viewers of our evening news will no longer see Mr. Shain every day, his presence will continue to be seen and heard in the generations of newsmen and newswomen who have learned their craft from him. Mr. Shain's voice will be missed across the Heartland, but his legacy will endure. I'm proud to have known and worked with Mr. Shain, and I am glad to thank him on behalf of the entire Eighth Congressional District of the State of Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE FOWLER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Fowler of the McSweeney Regional Senior Center who will be retiring after a decade of service to the seniors of eastern Connecticut.

Rose is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly in the town of Coventry, Connecticut. She has been a familiar face in local politics, serving as chair of the town council and as the moderator on Election Day. Rose actively volunteers her time with a host of community organizations, including the town's historical society. She and her husband Joseph also own and operate the Country Store that is located on Main Street.

Rose is best known to the people of eastern Connecticut for her work at the McSweeney Regional Senior Center. For nearly thirty years, the center has provided services to the residents of ten area communities. They offer extensive preventive care programs, including a number of health screenings and support groups. There are also a variety of social programs which have helped to foster a family atmosphere among the participants. From exercise classes to arts and crafts and a variety of trips, the seniors at McSweeney Regional Senior Center have truly found a second home. These activities have fostered a true sense of companionship and enjoyment for all who participate and are indicative of the warmth and friendship that Rose brings to work each and every day.

Even though I want to congratulate Rose on her well deserved retirement, I admit that I am

saddened by this event. While the McSweeney Senior Center will continue its tradition of quality service and support for the region's seniors, it will be difficult to match the legacy that Rose has left behind. I know that I will miss our discussions and interactions when I visit with the seniors and that I will not be alone in this regard. I wish Rose the best as she begins the next journey in her life and remain confident that whatever she does, she will continue her legacy of service to the seniors and people of eastern Connecticut.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, YEAR OF THE BUFFALO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2009, Year of the Buffalo. As the Vietnamese community in Greater Cleveland gathers at St. Helena Catholic Church to celebrate, I join them in celebration of their rich history and culture.

Tet is the time of the year to pay homage to ancestors, reconnect with friends and family and celebrate every hope and possibility rising with the new year. This year's gathering will once again honor community volunteers and leaders, showcasing many Vietnamese cultural treasures including Vietnamese culinary cuisine, music and dance.

2009 also marks thirty-four years of service to the community by the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc. This organization has been an invaluable resource for hundreds of Clevelanders of Vietnamese descent, linking them to needed resources and preserving the rich heritage of the Vietnamese people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and every member, past and present, for their dedication to Vietnamese-Americans of Northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tet 2009: Year of the Buffalo. May every American of Vietnamese heritage hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, and find peace and happiness within every new day of the rising new year.

THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the recent 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

Citing the constitutional right to privacy, the decision recognized women's equal standing with men to make decisions about their own bodies, and constituted a landmark step forward in the ongoing fight for gender equality.

Roe has advanced both the health care and human rights of women throughout America. It stands for the simple premise that government should not, and cannot, tell a person what to do with his or her own body.

As a proud cosponsor of the Prevention First Act, I certainly recognize that the term "pro-choice" is not synonymous with "pro-abortion."

Instead, to me, the right to choose is the right of a woman to make her own decisions about her health and future, free of coercion, based on medically-accurate information, and with access to all reproductive health options.

Roe has provided us a legal foundation upon which to build a framework of reproductive health options for women. Our responsibility, as we celebrate the decision's anniversary, is to make sure we honor the tradition of that decision by assuring that women and families throughout this great country have access to family planning and reproductive health options so that never again do women have to retreat to alleyways and dark corners to receive proper medical care.

Madam Speaker, January 22, 1973 marks a landmark day in our nation's constitutional history—for women, for health, and for individual liberty.

DISAPPROVAL OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, Our nation's economy continues to be challenged by tight credit markets and the long-term unwinding of the housing bubble. In light of the serious economic situation, I am voting against H.J. Res. 3 which involves the second half of the funds for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) for three reasons:

The first reason is that the economy is in truly terrible shape. During 2008, the economy lost 2.6 million jobs, with more than 1 million jobs lost in the last two months alone. Economists now project that the unemployment rate might rise to over ten percent in the coming year. Congress needs to do what it can to respond to the situation. When Congress initially authorized the TARP funds in late September the crisis in the financial markets had not hit main street business across the country. Today as we consider releasing the second half of the TARP funds, the circumstances that compelled that response last fall are even more dire.

The second reason for my opposition to the resolution of disapproval is based upon a belief that the second half of TARP funds will be used more strategically and effectively. Simply put, appointees of the Bush administration that oversaw the flawed administration of the program are no longer in charge of its operation. We have a new President and economic team that will need all of the presently available tools and more to address our cratering economy. The Obama administration has committed to get credit flowing to families and businesses while launching a sweeping effort

to address the foreclosure crisis and establishing a full and accurate accounting of the uses of TARP funds.

The third reason is safeguards for taxpayer funds that were contained in the detailed conditions the House approved for the TARP funds when it overwhelmingly passed H.R. 384. It is very unfortunate that TARP was mishandled. This bill, TARP Reform and Accountability Act, turns around the discredited "no strings attached" way the prior administration invested the funds. In addition to the explicit protections to taxpayers that had been reasonably expected in the program's administration to date, the bill requires Treasury to reach agreement with recipients of future TARP fund on exactly how the funds will be used and places limits on executive compensation and bonuses. The bill's provisions expand the oversight of the program and direct specific dollars to address housing foreclosures. The written pledges of the Obama administration to operate TARP with firm conditions, greater oversight and transparent accountability abide with the conditions passed by the House.

For the above reasons and because we do not know yet where this downturn in the economy will reach bottom, I voted against the resolution to disavow the release of the second part of the TARP funds to be administered by a new Treasury Secretary committed to protecting the interest of American taxpayers while providing needed assistance to the financial markets.

SYSTEMS HEALTHCARE APPROACH

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in hope of raising the awareness of the House as to the significant health disparities facing medically underserved areas, particularly rural areas and those with large minority populations. Many parts of the country face shortages in health care providers and services. In the rural areas of my district in Eastern Oklahoma, we have a deep understanding of the significant health disparities facing populations in medically underserved areas.

As Congress moves forward with this initiative to stimulate our nation's prosperity, I urge your consideration of the great need in underserved areas for coherent health care delivery systems, systems that integrate primary care, preventive care, specialty care, and acute care, and that are connected through a health care technology infrastructure. I would like to work with you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, as this legislation proceeds to focus funding toward projects that take a comprehensive systemic approach in underserved communities.

RECOGNITION OF WEST VIRGINIA'S ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PAR- TICIPATION IN THE PRESI- DENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Virginia's Army National Guard for their assistance at the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on Tuesday, the 20th of January 2009.

West Virginia provided nearly 500 men and women with the National Guard to usher in President Barack Obama. From crowd control to communication, West Virginia National Guard troops assisted local law enforcement in providing security and other services. In addition, the West Virginia National Guard sent helicopters, airplanes, mobile satellite-communications trailers, medical gear, and a mobile kitchen. Our brave men and women witnessed history and gave their all to help at this historic occasion.

Our heroic men and women in uniform are never far from my thoughts. They are our Nation's consistent example of valor and courage. In West Virginia, they earned a Special Category "First Place" award in the Army Communities of Excellence, ACOE, competition in May 2008 for their strong strategic planning process, communication, and customer-driven focus. Their excellence reflects the hard work and dedication of the men and women not only of the West Virginia Army National Guard, but also of every family member and friend who stands behind them. It is important to remember that our brave soldiers have given so much and have expected so little in return. I am proud to take this moment to recognize the excellence of the West Virginia Army National Guard for all they do to keep us safe from harm.

Our Armed Forces have paid the debt for the freedom we enjoy today, and I will continue, as I have in the past, to do everything I can to honor their sacrifices and service. Our soldiers and their families remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of southern West Virginians, and I will continue to devote my all to those who wear or have worn America's uniform.

HONORING SPECIALIST TIMOTHY R. LONG

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Timothy R. Long for his service in Iraq. In 1996, when Tim was eleven years old, I sat with him in his middle school classroom and prepared Valentine's Day cards for U.S. troops serving in Bosnia. Thirteen years later, as this Valentine's Day approaches, Tim is stationed in Iraq serving in the National Guard. On behalf of New Jersey's First Congressional District and the entire Nation, I would like to thank Tim for his service and dedication.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL DOUGLAS TEESON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Douglas Teeson who is retiring from his position as the president and chief executive officer of the Mystic Seaport. Admiral Teeson has dedicated his life to public service and I am honored to stand here today to offer these remarks.

Admiral Teeson is certainly no stranger to the people of southeastern Connecticut, where he has lived with his wife Phyllis for many years. He graduated with honors from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1965 and began his long and distinguished career as a Coast Guard officer. While in the Coast Guard he served in a variety of commands, including a term as head of the major training center located in Yorktown, Virginia. His career came full circle when he returned to the Coast Guard Academy to serve as the 36th superintendent, where he remained until his retirement in 2001.

In 2001, Admiral Teeson assumed his role as President and CEO of the Mystic Seaport, America's premier maritime history museum. Under Teeson's leadership, the Seaport flourished, adding new collections and undertaking historic renovations. During his tenure at the Mystic Seaport, Admiral Teeson oversaw the opening of the Carlton Marine Science Center and the completion of the new 500 ton ship lift facility among other important improvements that revitalized this unique American treasure.

Admiral Teeson has also been an integral part of the fabric of southeastern Connecticut. Admiral Teeson has served on the Board of Directors for The New London Day newspaper and as a commissioner for the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Admiral Teeson is also a recipient of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce's William Crawford Distinguished Service Award, given annually to an individual who has exemplified the spirit of community service and contributed to improving the quality of life for all of southeastern Connecticut. Never has there been a more deserving recipient of this prestigious honor.

Admiral Teeson's retirement marks the end of an era at the Mystic Seaport. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Admiral Teeson on his exceptional career and to wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. Luetkemeyer. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes that I missed on Monday, January 26, 2009, as a result of an ice storm delaying my flight from Missouri to Washington, DC.

On Monday, January 26, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 30 and 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes 30 and rollcall vote 31.

RECOGNIZE THE PARTICIPATION
OF THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL
GUARD IN THE INAUGURATION
OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, one week ago today Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

Millions flooded into Washington, DC to witness this historic occasion, presenting law enforcement authorities with an enormous logistical and security challenge.

To meet this challenge, the selfless men and women of Minnesota's National Guard came to Washington to assist with the Presidential Inauguration and to ensure the safety of the President as well as everyone present for inaugural festivities.

The superlative conduct and ability of Minnesota's guardsmen helped to make certain the ceremony and surrounding events occurred as safely as possible for all attendees, despite the many obstacles present in such a complex undertaking.

And so it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to all the brave citizen-soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard. Their exceptional service during our President's inauguration is a true source of pride for all Minnesotans, as

is the Guard's continuing and unbroken tradition of noble service to our State and country.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE SHAIN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, there are all kinds of public servants in our communities, but we seldom think first of journalists in that category. In the Eighth Congressional District of Southern Missouri, a journalist springs to mind as a public servant: Mike Shain of KFVS in Cape Girardeau. Mr. Shain is retiring after 53 years in the news businesses (the last 37 at KFVS), and I want to commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives for his long labors in the service of our region, our state and our nation.

Though the craft of news reporting has changed greatly in the time Mr. Shain has spent in the business, his fair reporting, his work ethic, and his professionalism have remained constant. Everyone who has looked at Mr. Shain over a microphone or across a table on the set of his weekly news magazine knows they have better done their homework. Mr. Shain takes preparedness to another level—he knows his subject matter and his audience inside-out.

Whole generations in Southeast Missouri have grown up with the informed voice of Mr. Shain in their ears. He has not only conveyed to us the news of the day, but he has also placed that news in context for his viewership. He has told us what is important as well as why. He has always had something important to say, which is a tough thing to do when most of your sentences end in a question mark. Still, Mr. Shain has been so successful and is so respected because his intellect is only surpassed by his understanding of the news media and its responsibilities to the public.

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